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R E P O R T

On the Health and Sanitary Condition of the

WARMINSTER URBAN DISTRICT

for the year

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Presented to the

Warminster Urban District Council

by

J. REYNOLDS,

Medical Officer of Health of
the Warminster Urban
Sanitary Authority.

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Health Department,
Craven House,
Warminster, Wilts.

TO. The Chairman of the Warminster Urban District Council.

Sir,

As directed by the Ministry of Health Circular 1/54 dated 12th January, 1954, I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report relating to the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District.

For the figures relating to vaccination and immunization, I am indebted to the Officers of the Wiltshire County Council and more so for advice and co-operation when necessary. Likewise I thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their support and your Clerk and Sanitary Officers for their help and co-operation.

Your obedient servant,

JOSEPH REYNOLDS.

WARMINSTER URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman of the Council.	Commander V.J.Robinson.
Vice-Chairman.	Mr.H.N.Dewey.
Chairman of the Public Health Committee.	Mr.G.H.Cowles.
Members of the Public Health Committee.	Mrs. G.M.Jefferies, Messrs. Dewey, Jones, Pickford, Titt and Wall.

Public Health Officers of The Authority.

Medical Officer of Health:

Joseph Reynolds, M.C., L.R.C.P.Edin:, L.R.C.S.Edin:, L.R.F.P. & S.(Glas.) D.P.H.Eng.

Chief Sanitary Inspector (Part-time):

William Parks, M.I.Mun.E., C.R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector:

F.J.Reilly, M.I.Mun.E., (Up to 1.11.53)

B.A.Whittingham, R.S.I./M.S.I.A., (From 1.11.53)

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area of the District (in acres)	5,651
Population - Registrar General's estimate as at 30th June, 1953.	8,190
Number of Inhabited Houses and Flats as at 31st December, 1953.	2,100
Rateable Value on 1st April, 1953.	£57,542.
Product of a Penny Rate year ending 31st December, 1953.	£236.

VITAL STATISTICS.

a) Live Births.	Male	Female
Total	83	81
Legitimate	79	79
Illegitimate	4	2
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population of the Urban District.	20.0	
Live Birth Rate of the Urban District after correction by the Area Comparability Factor.	22.8	
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population of England and Wales.	15.5	

b) Still Births.	Male.	Female.
Total	1	3
Legitimate	1	3

c) Deaths		
	71	61
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population of the Urban District.	16.1	
Crude Death Rate of the Urban District after correction by the Area Comparability Factor.	15.1	
Death Rate per 1,000 population of England and Wales.	11.4	

The statistics relating to deaths above include many cases whose deaths occurred in the Sambourne Hospital. In my opinion, for statistical purposes, the cases should have been transferred to the districts from which the cases were admitted to hospital. If this were done the number of deaths of Warminster residents only totals 71 and the Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population is 8.7.

d) Deaths of Infants under one year of age.	Male.	Female.
Total	4	2
Legitimate	4	2

e) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age.		
Total	1	2
Legitimate	1	2

f)

	Causes of Death.	Male.	Female.	Total.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	-	1
2.	Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus.	3	2	5
3.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	4	4
4.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	1	1
5.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	9	5	14
6.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	10	13	23
7.	Coronary disease, angina.	8	2	10
8.	Hypertension with heart disease.	-	1	1
9.	Other heart disease.	22	20	42
10.	Other circulatory disease.	5	2	7
11.	Influenza.	-	1	1
12.	Pneumonia.	2	1	3
13.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-	1
14.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
15.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	-	1
16.	Congenital.	1	1	2
17.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	3	7	10
18.	Motor vehicle accidents.	1	-	1
19.	All other accidents.	3	1	4
TOTALS:		71	61	132

TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES.

(Local Rates after Correction by Area Factors)

Year	Population	Births.	Rate per 1,000 population after correction.	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 population	Deaths of Infants under one year of age.
1950	8,150	135	18.9	62	7.1	3
1951	8,278	139	19.1	97	11.0	5
1952	8,290	127	17.4	85	9.7	2
1953	8,190	164	22.8	182	15.1	6

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

a) Laboratory Facilities.

The district is fortunate in having laboratory facilities available to the East and to the West, i.e. in the Pathological Department of the Salisbury Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory in Bath. Practitioners in the district use the most convenient laboratory, a practice followed by this Department when forwarding specimens of water, milk, ice-cream, or suspected foodstuffs for bacteriological investigation.

b) Ambulance Service.

The Ambulance service is provided and controlled by the Wiltshire County Council. The service to this district is controlled from Bradford-on-Avon where the station is manned continuously. A sub-station in Warminster also serves the district. Non-emergency calls must originate from a doctor, dentist, or midwife.

To obtain an ambulance in an emergency:-

where there is a dialling system in operation, dial 999

where there is no dialling system, lift the receiver and ask for an ambulance.

c) Midwifery, Home Nursing, Health Visitors and Home Helps.

These services are provided and controlled by the Wiltshire County Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, Telephone Trowbridge 3641.

d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The following Clinics serve the districts:-

1. Ante Natal:
At the Maternity Hospitals concerned .
Consultant Clinics are at Trowbridge for patients referred by their own doctor or widwife.

2. Infant Welfare:
Methodist Chapel, George Street, Warminster at 2.30 p.m. on the first and third Fridays of each month.

Methodist Schoolroom, Station Road, Westbury at 2.30 p.m. on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

Progressive Hall, North Bradley at 2.30 - 4 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month.

Trowbridge Hospital at 2 p.m. on every Tuesday and Thursday.

3. Diphtheria Immunisation:
Immunisation is undertaken by the County Council and Medical Officers visit the schools in outlying villages at specific dates for this purpose.

The Warminster Clinic is held on the fourth Friday of every month at 2 p.m., at the Methodist Schoolroom, George Street, Warminster.

The Westbury Clinic is held on the fourth Thursday of every month at 2.30 p.m., at the Laverton Institute, Westbury.

4. Ear, Nose and Throat:
By invitation from the County Council.

5. Eye.
By invitation from the County Council.

6. Orthopoedic.
At Salisbury, Trowbridge and Devizes by invitation from the County Council.

7. Tuberculosis.
Trowbridge - every Saturday at 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Cases referred by own Doctor or by invitation from County Council.

8. Cancer and Rheumatism.
At Bristol and Bath, by arrangement with the County Council.

9. Venereal Diseases:

	MEN.	WOMEN.
County Council Clinic, The Halve, Trowbridge.	Tuesday - 5 - 6.30 p.m.	Tuesday - 5 - 6.30 p.m.
General Infirmary, Salisbury.	Tuesday - 11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.	Wednesday - 6 - 7.30 p.m.
	Friday - 6 - 7.30 p.m.	Saturday - 11.30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Royal United Hospital, Bath.	Friday - 5 p.m.	Tuesday - 5 p.m.
	Saturday - 5 p.m.	Friday - 2.30 p.m.
St.Martin's Hospital, Bath.	Tuesday - 2 p.m.	Tuesday - 2 p.m.

10. Chiropody.
By arrangement with the County Council.

e) Hospitals.

The four hospitals noted below are within the Rural Area in the respective Urban Districts and are controlled by the West Wiltshire Hospital Management Committee.

	Beds.	Classification.	Type of case dealt with.
Warminster Hospital.	30	Wholly general.	Acute medical and surgical cases. Gynaecological cases. Chronic sick patients for short periods only.
Westbury and District Hospital.	20	do.	
Sambourne Hospital.	146	Mainly chronic sick.	Aged chronic sick. Accommodation reserved to the County Council for 40 Welfare residents. Accommodation provided for 11 wayfarers.
Beckford Orthopoedic Hospital, Warminster.	26	Orthopoedic	Tubercular cases.

Many residents also attend and receive treatment at several Hospitals in Bath and Salisbury.

Maternity cases are admitted to hospitals at Bradford-on-Avon, Trowbridge and Salisbury.

Cases of infectious diseases are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Trowbridge, Bath and Salisbury. The majority of cases of Tuberculosis are admitted to Winsley Chest Hospital and the Manor Hospital, Bath.

f) Mortuary.

An annual payment is made to the West Wiltshire Hospital Management Committee for mortuary facilities at the Sambourne Hospital, Warminster. The visiting Pathologist has expressed his satisfaction with the facilities provided.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Ministry of Labour and National Service.

1 Bratton Road,
Westbury.
Telephone: Westbury 296.

Prestbury House,
64 Boreham Road,
Warminster.
Hours: 9 - 5 p.m.

Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

Town Hall, Warminster.

Hours: 10 - 11.30 a.m.
Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

National Assistance Board.

School Lane,
Bellvue Road,
Salisbury.

Telephone: Salisbury 2261.

Bellefield House,
Hilperton Road,
Trowbridge.

Telephone: Trowbridge 2348.

Ministry of Pensions and National Insurance.

64 Boreham Road,
Warminster.
Telephone: Warminster 2351.
Hours: 9 - 5 p.m.

Wallbridge House,
Portway,
Frome.
Telephone: Frome 2373.

Bellefield House,
Hilperton Road,
Trowbridge.

Mental Health Officer - Mr.R.H.G.Moore.

Normal Office Hours:
County Hall,
Trowbridge.
Telephone: Trowbridge 3641.

Out of Office Hours:
c/o Tabernacle Cottage,
Church Street,
Trowbridge.
Telephone 2341.

SECTION C.

PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

No case of diphtheria occurred in the District during 1953. In addition to the Clinic facilities detailed on page 5, visits are made to the schools for the purpose of immunisation.

The numbers of children immunised during the year were:-

Primary Immunisations	- to 1 year of age	47
	- 1-4 years of age	51
	- 5-14 years of age	22

Total immunised child population at 31st December, 1953 - 1,618

Reinforcing Injections - 236

Children in the age group 0-2 immunised during the year, expressed as a percentage of the number of registered live births during the year - 54.9.

Children in the age group 5-9 primarily immunised and children in the age group 4-9 given reinforcement doses during the year, expressed as a percentage of school entrants during the year. - 100

I congratulate the parents of children of school age on the figures above but the smaller children are equally in need of protection and one child in two is not protected when he or she reaches the age of two. I would like parents to make an effort to have babies immunised as soon as they reach eight months of age.

Smallpox.

Vaccination against smallpox.

Age Group	Under 1	1	2 - 4	5 - 14	15 and over
Primary Vaccinations	111	5	4	7	6
Re-vaccinations	-	-	6	5	7

Children under the age of one year vaccinated during the year, expressed as a percentage of the number of registered live births during the year. - 67.7

These figures are certainly better than figures from most parts of the country but they should be better still to prevent an epidemic of smallpox should a case enter the District.

Tuberculosis.

Eleven cases were notified during the year, 3 of which were previously suffering from the disease before coming to live in the district. The Mass Radiography Unit administered by the South Western Regional Hospital Board visited the town during April and 877 persons attended for examination. Of these 68 were recalled for further examination and it is pleasing to note that only two persons were found to be in need of treatment for tuberculosis.

Measles.

During the first three months of the year this disease was epidemic and 267 cases were notified. No case had to be admitted to hospital and out of 316 cases during the whole year not one case died.

Serum for treating selected cases or prophylaxis of selected cases is available to medical practitioners on application to the Director of the Public Health Laboratory at Bath.

The following table gives the numbers of diseases notified.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	TOTAL
Scarlet Fever	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3
Measles	47	116	104	16	9	11	2	11	-	-	-	-	316
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	4
Pneumonia	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Encephalitis	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Erysipelas	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	3

Tuberculosis.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
Cases on Register at 31.12.53	22	18	9	14
New Cases notified during 1953 including transfers in.	6	1	-	4
Deaths	1	-	-	-
Recovered	-	-	-	-
Transferred out of district.	-	-	-	2

SECTION D.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK.

Milk is supplied from premises outside the town as well as by producers and retailers within the Urban District.

The licences granted during the year to sell designated milk as provided by the Milk and Dairy Regulations 1949 were:

5 dealers' licences to sell milk as Pasteurized.

No supplementary licences to sell milk as Pasteurized.

2 Dealers' licences to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested.

1 Supplementary licence to sell milk as Tuberculin Tested.

I regret that much undesignated milk is still sold in the district. In this area of England there is a grave risk of contracting diseases such as undulant fever from consuming raw milk. Cases of tuberculosis in young children are not rare and I repeat my previous advice to housekeepers to purchase only pasteurized milk.

The sampling of milk to ensure purity was not done sufficiently often by the Sanitary Inspectors. Only 5 samples were taken during the whole year, 3 of T.T. and 2 of pasteurized milk. N ot one sample of undesignated milk was collected for examination nor was any raw milk submitted for biological examination with regard to tuberculosis. It is the duty of the Local Authority to enforce the Milk and Dairy Regulations and this cannot be done unless a routine system of milk sampling is followed.

I regret the Authority did not agree to my request that the Sanitary Inspectors should keep a journal or sanitary diary relating to their activities. This would have enabled me to determine the proportion of time spent on Sanitary duties as opposed to duties connected with the Surveyor's department. I am of opinion that pressure of work in the Surveyor's department leads to neglect of the Sanitary work, of which milk sampling is an important part.

ICE CREAM.

Thirteen premises were registered for the sale of ice-cream, but, as in the case of milk sampling, only two samples were sent for examination.

MEAT.

I am pleased that my representations to the Council have led to more rigorous inspection of pigs slaughtered within the district.

Pigs.	Number Killed.	Number Inspected.	Number of carcases infected with disease.
1951	7,500	10	10
1952	10,326	8	8
1953	Unknown	1,737	230

SECTION E.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report is to be found in Appendix A.

Water Supplies.

It is the intention of the Council to abandon the Shearwater supply as soon as an alternative supply can be made available. Only slow progress is being made in providing an alternative supply since the second borehole provided at Arn Hill is only regarded by the Consultant Engineers as a standby in case of breakdown of the pumps for the first borehole. Since the raw water at Shearwater is grossly polluted and also acid in reaction with strong metallic solvent properties, it should be abandoned with all expedition.

Bacteriological examination of samples of treated water in the mains gave the following results during 1953:

WATER REPORTS.

Date.	Source of Sample.	Bact: count Cols: per 1 m.l	Est. Coli Aero-genes count per 100 m.l	Est. Faecal B.Coli count per 100 m.l
12.1.53	Building Essentials, Weymouth St.	6	Nil	Nil
19.1.53	Southern Electricity Board, The Close.	26	Nil	Nil
26.1.53	22 Market Place, Warminster.	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.2.53	Portway Dairy.	58	3	Nil
9.2.53	Regal Cinema, Weymouth St.	14	Nil	Nil
16.2.53	Southern Electricity Board, The Close.	15	Nil	Nil
23.2.53	Park Keepers Quarters, Weymouth St.	Nil	Nil	Nil
2.3.53	Standpipe of new house for Holloway, Westbury Road.	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.4.53	Building Essentials, Weymouth St.	Nil	Nil	Nil
30.3.53	Crown & Bell Inn, Deverill Road.	1	Nil	Nil
23.3.53	Building Essentials, Weymouth St.	2	Nil	Nil
16.3.53	Portway Dairy.	16	Nil	Nil
9.3.53	Walkers Stores, Market Place.	23	Nil	Nil
26.5.53	Southern Electricity Board.	2	Nil	Nil
18.5.53	Bell and Crown Inn.	Nil	Nil	Nil
11.5.53	75 Portway.	6	Nil	Nil
4.5.53	Building Essentials, Weymouth Street.	2	Nil	Nil
27.4.53	Portway Dairy.	500+	5	Nil
20.4.53	Southern Electricity Board, The Close.	Nil	Nil	Nil
8.6.53	do. do.	Nil	Nil	Nil
6.7.53	25 Portway.	4	5	Nil
22.6.53	25 Portway.	2	5	Nil
29.6.53	6 Deverill Road.	2	Nil	Nil
15.6.53	Bell and Crown Inn.	Nil	Nil	Nil
13.7.54	The Park Lodge, 21 Weymouth Street.	3	Nil	Nil
20.7.53	Southern Electricity Board, The Close.	6	Nil	Nil
27.7.53	Regal Cinema	1	Nil	Nil
4.8.53	Portway Dairy.	32	3	Nil
18.8.53	Southern Electricity Board, The Close.	35	Nil	Nil
1.9.53	75 Portway.	68	5	Nil
21.9.53	Building Essentials, Weymouth Street.	Nil	Nil	Nil
28.9.53	21 Westbury Road.	9	7	Nil
5.10.53	21 Westbury Road.	1	Nil	Nil
19.10.53	Building Essentials, Weymouth Street.	Nil	Nil	Nil
26.10.53	6 Westbury Road.	21	3	Nil
2.11.53	Building Essentials, Weymouth Street.	2	Nil	Nil
9.11.53	6 Westbury Road, Warminster.	6	5	Nil
3.11.53	do.	39	25	Nil

WATER REPORTS (Contd.)

Date.	Source of Sample.	Bact: Count Cols: per 100 m.l	Est. Coli Aero-genes count per 100 m.l	Est. Faecal B.Coli count per 100 m.l
16.11.53	Rising Main, Arre Hill Reservoir.	2	Nil	Nil
16.11.53	52 Portway, Warminster.	4	5	Nil
23.11.53	52 Portway, Warminster.	4	5	Nil
1.12.53	Hill House, Cafe.	1	Nil	Nil
7.12.53	43 Portway.	102	3	Nil
14.12.53	Building Essentials, Weymouth Street.	4	Nil	Nil
14.12.53	Southern Electricity Board.	500+	Nil	Nil
21.12.53	43 Portway.	3	3	Nil

It will be seen that 14 out of 47 samples showed coliform organisms in 100 m.l. Efficient chlorination should yield water entirely free from such organisms in quantities of 100 m.l., and such results as those above, in the opinion of the expert advisers to the Ministry of Health, "should at once occasion misgivings as to the adequacy of the chlorinatio process".

SWIMMING BATH.

This open air pool holds 75,000 gallons of water and is filled and drained at fortnightly intervals. It has been customary to add 3 pints of a concentrated hypochlorite solution to the bath water daily since the average load of bathers per day is about 150. The surround drains mainly to the bath and pre-cleansing facilities such as footbaths or showers are not provided. A separate water closet is available for each sex plus a urinal.

It is admitted that since the pool is open to the atmosphere, sunshine acts as a potent germicidal medium but the bath is lacking in facilities now regarded as essentials. Until a continuous chlorination and filtration plant can be installed I recommend that the water be changed more frequently and that footbaths and showers be provided in such positions that they must be used by bathers before entering the bath. The chlorination should be controlled according to the bathing load so as to maintain a minimum of 0.2 parts per million chlorine residual at all times and a record kept of tests performed to ensure this standard is observed. Optimum conditions will only be obtained by the installation of continuous filtration and chlorination plant.

SECTION F.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Inspector has provided the following statistical report without comment.

	Total Inspections.	No. of Premises.
Private Dwelling Houses. (Other than Council Houses.)	154	63
Council Houses.	763	605
Factories and Workshops.	156	26
Dairies.	25	5
Shops - Grocery.	121	29
Greengrocery.	47	18
Butchers.	87	10
Fishmongers.	16	4
Confectionery and Cafes.	60	13
Bakehouses.	30	4
Fish Fryers.	18	4
Slaughterhouses.	89	1
Knacker's Yard.	21	1
Moveable Dwellings.	59	7 sites.
Rag Flock Act.	9	2
Miscellaneous, Public Health Act.	236	142
Water Samples.	52	52
Building Byelaws.	22	19
Infectious Disease.	2	1
	1,967	906

Meat Inspection.

No. of carcases and offal inspected	1737
Approximate weight of meat and offal condemned.	1139 lbs.
No. of carcases affected with disease -	
Tuberculosis	49
Erysipelas	3
Ascaris Lumbricoides.	120
Pleurisy and Pneumonia	56
Pyaemia	2

Other Foods Condemned. (Tinned goods and other commodities).

Approximate weight 423 lbs.

Milk Sampling. 5 samples taken and found satisfactory.

Ice Cream Sampling. 2 samples taken and found satisfactory.

Premises Registered for sale of ice cream. 13

No. of Dealers under Milk and Dairies Regulations. 6

INSPECTION OF FOOD PREMISES UNDER FOOD AND DRUGS ACT.

		Found Unsatisfactory on Inspection.	Premises where defects have been remedied by 31.12.53.
Butchers	10	7	4
Fish Fryers.	4	1	1 (in ha
Bakehouses.	5	1	1
Cafes.	9	2	2
Industrial Canteens.	4	-	-
Fruit Canners.	1	-	-
Grocers, Fishmongers and Confectioners.	55	20	11

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT. NUISANCES FOUND AND ABATED.

Defects.	Found.	Abated by 31.12.53.
Defective Roof.	12	9
Eaves, gutters.	7	7
Defective Wallplaster and Ceiling.	4	1
Defective Drains.	11	11
Defective Water Closets and Structures.	4	4
Defective Windows.	3	1
Defective Floors.	1	1
TOTAL -	42	34

FACTORIES ACT.

	Found.	Abated by 31.12.53.
Contraventions.	2	2

PEST CONTROL.

No. of Premises Treated.	No. of Treatments.	Other Premises visited during the year.
473	1439	767

Number of Rats picked up - 504.